

June 12, 1959

Dr. Morris L. Radoff
Archivist
Hall of Records Commission
Annapolis, Md.

Dear Dr. Radoff:

In reply to your letter of June 11, 1959, with reference to the rights of the Oxford University Press to publish the Maryland Guide, I wish to advise you that it is my opinion that you have given sufficient notice to the Oxford University Press, and that, since they have not complied with your request within a reasonable time, the agreement entered into with them on the 10th of July, 1939, is no longer in force or effect. I am of the opinion that the Hall of Records Commission is now free to publish its own revised edition of the Maryland Guide without any obligation to the Oxford University Press.

Very truly yours,

STEDMAN PRESCOTT, JR.,
Deputy Attorney General

SP:MH

A second problem which was referred to the Attorney General concerns the limits of our right to certify records. As you are aware, Acts of the Maryland General Assembly are transferred by the Secretary of State to the Clerk of the Court of Appeals after they have been signed by the Governor and the great seal affixed. They remain in the custody of the Court for one year, after which they come to the Hall of Records. Once they are in our custody the Archivist is authorized to certify copies.

We have always in the past certified to photostatic or typewritten copies made here by our staff and we have refused to certify copies made by others. We have refused for two reasons: (1) it is more time consuming to collate copies brought in to us with the original than to make a photographic reproduction; and (2) such copies could never duplicate exactly the original in our custody because they necessarily lacked all signatures as well as the imprint of the great seal. Of the copies brought in to us for certification the most numerous were legislative third-readers. After some complaint had been voiced because of our refusal to certify third-readers, we submitted the problem to the Attorney General who held in the opinion given here below that we had been too conservative in interpreting our certification authority.